Recommendations of Task Force on TV Channels

4876. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force was appointed to examine the feasibility whereby the Consumers are made to pay only for the TV Channels they watch and not for all channels as at present;

(b) if so, whether the report of the Task Force has been received and if so, the recommendations made by them;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations and if so, the decision taken; and

(d) whether it is proposed to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the Task Force has been received and its main recommendations are:—

(i) The Conditional Access System and the supportive Subscriber Management System should be mandated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(ii) The Set Top Box (STB) shall be required only for "Pay" Channels and Basic Tier of "Free-toAir" channels shall be receivable by the subscribers in the current mode without the use of STB.

(iii) The technical parameters of STB shall conform to the Indian standards, to be prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(iv) Unauthorised viewing / distribution / redistribution of the broadcast signal should be made a cognizable offence.

(v) The Government should regulate the price of "Basic Tier" of "Free-to-Air" channels. The Government will also make a special provision for the channels of the Public Service Broadcaster.

(vi) There should be no requirement for change of the receiving set, irrespective of whether the consumer chooses to watch "Free-to-Air" channels and/or 'Pay' channels.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Task Force have, generally been accepted by the Government and amendment to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 is under consideration.

DTH digital satellite broadcasting service

4877. DR. T. SUBBA RAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio will be launching its Direct-To-Home digital satellite broadcasting service;

(b) if so, whether the 24 hour satellite broadcast channel will beam programmes to the Indian sub-continent as also to the entire South-East Asian Region;

(c) if so, to what extent the new technology will improve audio quality; and

(d) to what extent this decision will help larger area to be brought under the broadcasting net?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) All India Radio has launched its Direct-to-Home digital satellite broadcasting service *w.e.f.* 27th February, 2002. The 24 hour satellite broadcast channel is currently beaming programmes to Indian sub continent as also to the entire South East Asian region through Asia Star satellite.

(c) and (d) The new technology gives improved audio quality uniformly over the entire coverage area and has helped AIR to cover the whole country in satellite mode.

National Film Awards

4878. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Jury for the 48th Film Awards had